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Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of Commission resolutions, on which the secretariat is required to report to the Commission at its seventieth session.

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and to provide the secretariat with comments and further guidance for the effective implementation of the resolutions.

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I. Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development

A. Resolution 68/10
Enhancing regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific

1. Requirements of the operative paragraphs

1. In paragraph 4 of its resolution 68/10, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary:

(a) To strengthen the role and capacity of the secretariat in the area of regional economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region;

(b) To support the convening of the First Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Integration in 2013 (see paragraph 8 below as regards the change of name);

(c) To report to the Commission at its seventieth session on the progress in the implementation of the resolution.

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2. In the resolution, the Commission decided to convene the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Integration to review the theme study for its sixty-eighth session. The theme study, which was published by the secretariat under the title *Growing Together: Economic Integration for an Inclusive and Sustainable Asia-Pacific Century*,[1] contained a comprehensive review of regional economic integration based on four pillars: (a) market integration; (b) seamless connectivity; (c) financial cooperation; and (d) addressing shared vulnerabilities and risks.

2. Progress made

(a) Progress in strengthening the role and capacity of the secretariat in the area of regional economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region

3. In response to paragraph 4(a) of the resolution, the secretariat has strengthened its role and capacity in the area of regional economic integration, including on the themes of disaster risk reduction, information and communications technologies (ICT), statistics and macroeconomic policies.

4. In the area of disaster risk reduction, the secretariat organized a series of workshops to help build the capacities of members of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee. In an ongoing project funded by ESCAP, which is to be piloted in Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Philippines, the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones and the Typhoon Committee are working together to develop "synergized" standard operating procedures covering multiple coastal hazards. With climate change likely to increasingly affect the core areas of work of the two bodies, integrative cooperative platforms, such as the one being implemented through the above-mentioned project, are set to support the efforts of member States to build resilience into their development strategies.

5. In the area of ICT, ESCAP and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) jointly produced a groundbreaking map of a terrestrial regional information superhighway, which will help bridge the digital divide in the Asia-Pacific region. The map makes it easy to identify where the missing links are in terrestrial transmission across the region. It includes the Asian Highway[2] and the Trans-Asian Railway[3] networks, thus highlighting potential areas in which a coordinated deployment of ICT infrastructure with road and railway construction can lead to cost savings. Such information is a useful tool for policymakers and investors in developing a coherent Asia-Pacific information superhighway and assisting member States in their efforts to provide affordable ICT and broadband connectivity.

6. In the area of statistics, the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics, which was established[4] by the Committee on Statistics and is serviced by the secretariat, functions to improve the soundness of economic analysis and decision-making by Governments, the private sector, the research community and the public through increased availability and effective use of timely, reliable and comparable economic statistics, which are necessary to support economic integration.

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[1] ST/ESCAP/2629.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2323, No. 41607.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2596, No. 46171.

[4] E/ESCAP/CST(2)/9, decision 2/7, para. 2.

7. In the area of macroeconomic policies, the secretariat organized a series of high-level capacity-building policy dialogues to exchange ideas and identify best practices in macroeconomic management in the aftermath of the global financial crisis. These policy dialogues, which were attended by high-level officials from the ministries of finance and planning, together with those from central banks, provided opportunities to discuss ways to further financial cooperation among countries in the region.

(b) Supporting the convening of the first Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Integration in 2013

8. In response to paragraph 4(b) of the resolution, the secretariat supported the convening of the Ministerial Conference by inviting all members and associate members of ESCAP to the High-level Policy Dialogue Preparatory to the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Integration in Bangkok from 20 to 22 August 2013. The Policy Dialogue, which was attended by representatives of 30 member States, provided Governments with the opportunity to discuss issues related to regional economic cooperation and integration, and to prepare a preliminary draft text of the ministerial declaration to be submitted to the Ministerial Conference. Representatives of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, as well as 10 high-level experts, also participated in the Policy Dialogue. Participants at the Policy Dialogue suggested changing the name of the Ministerial Conference to "Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific".

9. During the Policy Dialogue, some delegates agreed to furnish additional comments on the draft declaration, following consultations with their capitals. They also requested the secretariat to hold a second preparatory meeting to discuss matters further and refine the draft ministerial declaration. In response, the secretariat collected and compiled comments on the preliminary draft text and subsequently organized a second preparatory meeting.

10. The second preparatory meeting, which was held in Bangkok on 13 and 14 November 2013, was attended by representatives of 37 member States, as well as representatives of the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. During the two-day meeting, the delegates discussed the draft ministerial declaration extensively and concluded a second draft, which was submitted to the senior officials segment of the Ministerial Conference so that it could be discussed further and finalized.

11. The Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific was held in Bangkok from 17 to 20 December 2013. The Conference comprised a senior officials segment (17-18 December 2013) and a ministerial segment (19-20 December 2013). The Conference was attended by ministers and high-level officials from 36 members and associate members. The main outcome of the Conference was the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific.[5]

12. The Bangkok Declaration is divided into three sections: a preamble; policy directions; and a suggested agenda for regional economic cooperation and integration. Its recommendations include a request to the secretariat to

[5] See E/ESCAP/70/7.

create four area-specific expert working groups: (a) to take stock of current efforts in regional economic cooperation and integration; (b) to identify gaps in those efforts; (c) to recommend concrete actions to make progress; and (d) to submit their recommendations to intergovernmental open-ended preparatory meetings to be convened for a proposed second ministerial conference in 2015.

B. Resolution 69/2
Final review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific region

1. Requirements of the operative paragraphs

13. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 69/2, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist Asia-Pacific landlocked developing countries in forwarding the Vientiane Consensus as the Asia-Pacific regional input to the final global review of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014;

(b) To assist Asia-Pacific landlocked developing countries, in cooperation with development partners and other international entities and taking into account their respective mandates, in implementing the recommendations of the Vientiane Consensus and in building their capacity to make appropriate policy responses that mitigate the impact of economic crises, restore growth, achieve the Millennium Development Goals and explicitly address the recent emerging development challenges to shape the development agenda beyond 2015 with sustainable development at its core;

(c) To submit to the Commission at its seventieth session a report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the resolution.

2. Progress made

14. In response to paragraph 3(a) of the resolution, the secretariat forwarded the Vientiane Consensus to the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States on 18 May 2013 as the Asia-Pacific regional input to the final review of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014.

15. In response to paragraph 3(b), ESCAP continued to undertake activities as part of a regional Millennium Development Goal partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Asia-Pacific regional report on the Millennium Development Goals for 2012/2013,[6] which was jointly prepared under this partnership, was instrumental in taking stock of the region's progress and addressing areas where it was found to be lagging behind.

16. ESCAP, in collaboration with the National Bank of Kazakhstan, organized the High-level Policy Dialogue on Macroeconomic Policies for Sustainable and Resilient Growth in North and Central Asia in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 27 and 28 August 2013. The Policy Dialogue provided a timely platform for ministers of finance, governors of central banks, high-

[6] Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Asian Development Bank and United Nations Development Programme, *Asia-Pacific Aspirations: Perspectives for a Post-2015 Development Agenda. Asia-Pacific Regional MDGs Report 2012/13* (Bangkok, 2013). Available from www.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/library/mdg/asia-pacific-mdg-2012-2013.

level policymakers, eminent experts and diverse stakeholders to address the challenges of growth, stability, diversification and jobs, and to take a fresh look at how macroeconomic policy tools could better serve national development agendas.

17. ESCAP undertook an in-depth analytical study for both South-East and Central Asia and organized a series of expert consultations to help landlocked developing countries bridge the digital divide. Experts identified bottlenecks and missing infrastructure linkages and recommended the establishment of a seamless Asian information superhighway that would bring affordable broadband connectivity to all, and transform landlocked countries into "landlinking" ones.

18. ESCAP and ITU jointly produced a groundbreaking map of terrestrial fibre optic cables. The map, for the first time ever, shows policymakers and investors where the missing links in terrestrial transmission are across the region. It has contributed to the development of a coherent Asia-Pacific information superhighway and thereby assisted ESCAP member States in their efforts to establish affordable ICT and broadband connectivity for all.

19. Workshops and advisory missions were provided to the Government of Mongolia with the aim of increasing the capacity of government officials to remove regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, including through enhanced capacity to negotiate and implement preferential trade and investment agreements. In 2012-2013, workshops and advisory missions on negotiations and preparation for the liberalization of services, and on negotiation of rules of origin and trade in goods, were provided in cooperation with United Nations partners.

20. Technical assistance and relevant data and information for building capacity for inclusive and sustainable trade-led development were provided to landlocked developing countries that have either recently acceded to the World Trade Organization (WTO), are "soon-to-be" members or are those undertaking significant domestic regulatory and other reforms aimed at more intensive integration in the regional and global economies.

21. Some 10 landlocked developing countries in the region attended subregional meetings (July 2013) and a regional meeting (September 2013) on arrangements for the facilitation of cross-border paperless trade. Both meetings were organized in accordance with Commission resolution 68/3, and each was organized back-to-back with capacity-building training on paperless trade. The draft text of a regional arrangement on the facilitation of cross-border paperless trade has been prepared with the participation of and contributions from nominated national focal points and regional experts through expert reviews and consultations among members.

22. A total of 19 capacity-building events on trade facilitation related to landlocked developing countries were organized by ESCAP in 2013. Among them, the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2013, which was held in Beijing on 10 and 11 September, was attended by representatives of eight landlocked developing countries in the region. The United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT) Masterclass 2013: Implementing Single Window and Paperless Trade, a two-week intensive training on implementation of paperless trade and single windows, which was held in Cheon-an, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 18 October 2013, was attended by representatives of five landlocked developing countries in the region. The Global Trade Facilitation Conference 2013, which was held in Bangkok on 18 and 19 November 2013, was

attended by government and private sector representatives from nine landlocked developing countries in the region.

23. ESCAP is analysing the information and finalizing a first version of the database on transit agreements, which is expected to be released by May 2014. An initial analysis of the trade facilitation potential of selected Asian transit agreements in the context of the WTO trade facilitation negotiations was released in January 2014.

24. As part of capacity-building activities in landlocked developing countries, ESCAP held a national workshop on establishing and strengthening national coordination mechanisms in the Lao People's Democratic Republic in September 2012. This will help develop the capacity of various ministries to coordinate the facilitation of international trade and transport.

II. Trade and investment

Resolution 68/3
Enabling paperless trade and the cross-border recognition of electronic data and documents for inclusive and sustainable intraregional trade facilitation

1. Requirements of the operative paragraphs

25. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 68/3, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary:

(a) To support and facilitate the process for the development of regional arrangements on the facilitation of cross-border paperless trade, including by conducting studies, developing potential options, and organizing expert review and member consultations, and in this regard to present its results to the Committee on Trade and Investment at its third session;

(b) To ensure that the regional arrangements take into account and are consistent with the existing international and regional agreements, mechanisms, and undertakings as well as build on existing international standards and conventions and are developed in consultation with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, the World Customs Organization and other relevant international bodies;

(c) To continue and further strengthen the secretariat's support for capacity-building activities related to trade facilitation and paperless trade, including transit facilitation, particularly with regard to least developed and landlocked developing countries and for the preparation, in consultation with member States, of such regional arrangements.

2. Progress made

26. Since the adoption of the resolution, the secretariat has undertaken many activities in support of its implementation. In response to paragraph 3(a), the secretariat has conducted studies, developed potential options, and organized expert reviews and member consultations.

27. In response to paragraph 3(c), as a first step, the secretariat sought the nomination of national focal points for the implementation of the resolution from the seats of Government of ESCAP members for effective communication with relevant agencies. As of 1 January 2014, a total of 33 ESCAP members and associate members had nominated their national

focal points. The secretariat also created a designated web page (http://unnext.unescap.org/reso683.asp) to make available the outcomes of implementation and ensure transparency in the process.

28. In response to paragraph 3(a), for conducting studies and developing potential options, two regional experts with extensive work experience in customs and trade negotiations conducted a regional study and developed potential options. The study went through two rounds of peer reviews. The study offers potential options for regional arrangements and recommends a regional agreement that each ESCAP member may join voluntarily, providing for a flexible trade data exchange mechanism to be developed jointly by parties to the agreement as the best option for the Asia-Pacific region.

29. After the delivery of the final study in February 2013, expert reviews were organized between March and May 2013. Two expert group meetings were organized in Bangkok during this period, with the participation of experts from UNNExT and other regional experts. The meetings reviewed the findings of the study, revised the draft text of the regional arrangement proposed therein and also developed an explanatory note for the benefit of members in their review of the draft text at a later stage.

30. In order to maximize input from member States, the secretariat organized a series of consultations on the draft text of the regional arrangement and accompanying explanatory note, resulting in the participation of nominated national focal points, official nominees or experts from 29 member States. In July 2013, the secretariat organized three subregional meetings — based on inputs from the three subregional meetings, the secretariat revised the draft text of the regional arrangement and accompanying explanatory note in August 2013. An additional regional consultation was held on 12 September 2013 in Beijing, back-to-back with the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2013, mainly for those countries that could not join one of the three subregional meetings. Additional comments and suggestions received during the regional meeting were integrated into the text in a further revision in October 2013 as part of the effort to build a broader consensus.

31. The results of ongoing implementation efforts were presented to the Committee on Trade and Investment at its third session, which was held from 20 to 22 November 2013 (see E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/9). The Committee noted the progress made on implementation and supported the desire of member States for a regional arrangement on cross-border paperless trade. The Committee agreed to move forward with negotiation of the arrangement but took note of the need for further discussion. In this regard, it requested the secretariat to organize another member consultation in the form of an ad hoc intergovernmental meeting prior to the seventieth session of the Commission in order to incorporate relevant revisions to the existing draft text (see E/ESCAP/70/9). The secretariat accordingly organized the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade, which is to be held in Bangkok from 22 to 24 April 2014.

32. In accordance with paragraph 3(b) of the resolution, representatives of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) were invited to participate in the two expert group meetings as well as the regional meeting.

33. With reference to paragraph 3(c) of the resolution, the secretariat has continued to support capacity-building activities related to trade facilitation and paperless trade. More than 20 such activities have been organized with the support of UNNExT since the adoption of the resolution, including a two-week multi-donor-funded masterclass on implementing single windows and paperless trade targeted at least developing countries and landlocked developing countries. Most of the capacity-building activities have been implemented in close partnership with the relevant regional and global organizations, which helped in effectively enhancing the number of participants benefiting from the activities, in particular least developed and landlocked developing countries. Some of the activities have also been supported by a trust fund established by the Republic of Korea in May 2013.

III. Environment and development

A. Resolution 67/2
Promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific

1. Requirements of the operative paragraphs

34. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 67/2, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary:

(a) To strengthen the role and capacity of the ESCAP secretariat in the area of energy security;

(b) To ensure effective coordination with other United Nations bodies and agencies, in particular through UN-Energy, and with multilateral agencies and subregional organizations in working towards enhancing the capacity of ESCAP member States;

(c) To collaborate effectively with development partners in order to mobilize financial and technical support to promote regional cooperation for enhanced energy security;

(d) To assist members and associate members in meeting their energy security challenges through: (i) the collaborative development of energy security scenarios; and (ii) the organization of meetings and regional networking arrangements aimed at promoting the exchange of experiences and information;

(e) To convene, in 2013, the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum at the ministerial level to discuss the progress achieved in the Asia-Pacific region in addressing the energy security challenges at the regional, national and household levels, and to facilitate continuous dialogue among member States with a view to enhancing energy security and working towards sustainable development;

(f) To report to the Commission at its seventieth session on the progress in the implementation of the resolution.

2. Progress made

35. In response to paragraph 7(a), the secretariat has strengthened its activities in the area of energy security as indicated in the strategic framework for the period 2014-2015. Additional financial resources were mobilized to ensure effective implementation of the planned activities.

36. In response to paragraphs 7(b) to (e), the secretariat organized an extensive preparatory process for the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum in order to promote an exchange of experiences and information, to fully consider the various views of member States on energy security within Asia and the Pacific and to support consensus-building towards a regional energy strategy. From 2012 to March 2013, five subregional analytical studies were prepared on emerging and persistent challenges, as well as opportunities for regional cooperation to promote and enhance energy security and the sustainable use of energy. Five consultation meetings in every ESCAP subregion, an expert group meeting and a regional preparatory meeting were held. Senior government officials, experts, representatives of regional and international organizations, United Nations partners and civil society organizations actively participated and contributed greatly to the Forum's preparatory process.

37. Preparations for the Forum were coordinated and synergized with other United Nations bodies and agencies through UN-Energy Asia-Pacific, a regional chapter of UN-Energy that was established by ESCAP in early 2012 in order to ensure coherence in the United Nations system's response to global energy challenges and their regional implications in the Asia-Pacific region. UN-Energy Asia-Pacific is composed of United Nations bodies and agencies including ESCAP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Capital Development Fund, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, UNDP, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Bank and the World Health Organization as well as ADB.

38. The secretariat promoted the concept of "enhanced energy security" in its organization of meetings and provision of materials to support discussions. Moving beyond conventional short-term calculations of supply and demand, enhanced energy security takes a more holistic view of energy security based on a long-term view. In particular, the secretariat highlighted seven focus areas in achieving enhanced energy security: energy access; energy efficiency; renewable energy; energy and environment; energy economics; energy trade and investment; and energy connectivity.

39. The Asian and Pacific Energy Forum was held in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, from 27 to 30 May 2013. The Forum was attended by representatives of 34 countries, of which 20 were represented at ministerial level. Representatives included the Prime Minister of Tonga and the Deputy Prime Minister of Tuvalu.

40. During the ministerial segment on 30 May 2013, the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum adopted two outcome documents, namely: (a) the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific: Shaping the Future of Sustainable Energy in Asia and the Pacific; and (b) the Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific, 2014-2018.[7]

41. The Forum recommended that the Commission endorse the Ministerial Declaration and the Plan of Action. The Forum also invited the Executive Secretary, with the participation of the members and associate

[7] See E/ESCAP/70/28.

members of the Commission, to review periodically the progress of implementation of the Plan of Action and to take the necessary decisions in this regard. At its third session, in October 2013, the Committee on Environment and Development also recommended that the Commission at its seventieth session endorse the outcomes of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum.[8] The outcomes of the Forum are contained in a report to be submitted to the Commission at its seventieth session.

42. Furthermore, since the adoption of resolution 67/2, the secretariat has organized a number of workshops, expert group meetings and trainings to assist member States in addressing their energy security challenges and to promote sustainable energy policies. The secretariat has been implementing various technical cooperation projects to contribute to enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific.

B. Resolution 68/11
Connectivity for energy security

1. Requirements of the operative paragraphs

43. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 68/11, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to identify options, in consultation with member States, that member States may choose on regional energy connectivity, including an intergovernmental framework that could be developed for an integrated regional power grid, which could be termed as the "Asian energy highway", to analyse the socioeconomic and environmental benefits of each option as well as the challenges and opportunities towards the realization of each option, and to report on each option to the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, which was held in the Russian Federation in May 2013.

2. Progress made

44. The concept of an "Asian energy highway" was included in the Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy, 2014-2018, which was adopted at the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (May 2013), under Area of Action N, "Develop common infrastructure and harmonized energy policies with a view to increasing regional economic integration".[7]

45. The secretariat prepared a document entitled "Asian Energy Highway: Inclusive and sustainable development through regionally integrated power development in Asia and the Pacific", presenting an overview of energy security challenges in the region, ongoing efforts in subregional energy cooperation and integration, the latest developments in long-distance transmission and smart grid technologies, and possible strategies towards realizing an "Asian energy highway".

46. An Expert Group Meeting on Conceptualizing the Asian Energy Highway[9] was held from 3 to 5 September 2013 in Urumqi, China, in collaboration with the Third China-Eurasia Expo and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology. The expert group meeting was held with the aim of seeking the views of technical experts on conceptualizing an "Asian energy

[8] See E/ESCAP/70/13.

[9] See "Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Conceptualizing the Asian Energy Highway", Urumqi, China, 3-5 September 2013. Available from http://old.escap.un.org/esd/Energy-Security-and-Water-Resources/meetings_energy/meeting-EGM-AEH/EGM-AEH-meeting-report.pdf.

highway" based on the discussion paper prepared by the secretariat. Participants included electrical engineers, transmissions system experts, and representatives of research institutes, the private sector, and major subregional power integration initiatives, such as the ASEAN Power Grid, the Asian Super Grid (connecting Mongolia's renewable energy supply to demand centres in East Asia), the CASA 1000 Project as part of the Central Asia-South Asia Regional Electricity Market, the Greater Mekong Subregion Power Market and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Electricity Market, as well as the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity and the Energy Charter Secretariat.

47. The experts agreed that it was indeed desirable to define the concept of an "Asian energy highway" and establish a regional integrated power grid, recognizing the importance of having a common goal in the region that would become the basis for long-term planning of the power sector for sustainable development.

48. The experts identified two policy options: (a) the development of a top-down, integrated regional power grid; and (b) the strengthening of existing subregional initiatives and cooperative efforts. The experts recommended the latter, a more programmatic approach that builds on existing subregional initiatives and experiences in Europe, Latin America, West Africa and elsewhere.

49. Political commitment was seen as critical in establishing an integrated regional power grid. In order to garner such leadership, the expert group meeting suggested raising the awareness and interest of ESCAP member States to pursue an "Asian energy highway" in cooperation with stakeholders, gaining consensus on the need for further research and analysis to more comprehensively quantify the social, environmental and economic benefits, building upon existing initiatives at the subregional level, in particular their feasibility studies, investigating opportunities for a flagship development project, and identifying ways to support the process of developing and implementing a road map for an "Asian energy highway", which is likely to take place over several years.

50. As part of the secretariat's mandate to support the implementation of the outcome of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, the Policy Dialogue: Energy for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific was held in Bangkok from 17 to 19 December 2013, in collaboration with UNDP. A concept note on an "Asian energy highway" and the main outcomes from the expert group meeting were circulated to participants and a half-day session was organized focused on policy guidance from the participants.

51. In further strengthening the concept of an "Asian energy highway", recommendations were made, echoing the suggestions from the expert group meeting in September 2013, such as (a) facilitating networking within and among subregions to support and strengthen existing initiatives on multilateral power grids with a view to promoting harmonization for future region-wide cooperation and possible integration, and (b) ensuring that socioeconomic benefits as well as market potential are clearly identified and understood. The importance of developing an appropriate mechanism to support the implementation of an "Asian energy highway" was recognized. The meeting also noted the significant potential and experience in exploring an integrated power grid system in Central Asia and the Russian Federation.

52. The meeting agreed, in general, on the road map contained in the discussion paper circulated to the participants, which consisted of:

(a) dialogue and analysis (within 5 years); (b) implementation (within 10-20 years); and (c) operation (unknown). Participants agreed that political issues will continue to be a challenge and recognized that holding dialogues to raise the political commitment was essential. While noting the significant lack of human and financial resources of the secretariat, the meeting recognized the important role that the secretariat could provide in facilitating an intergovernmental process towards building up political commitment.

53. To promote further dialogue among policymakers and strengthen incentives for political commitment, the meeting participants suggested that the next priority activity be conducting studies that further identify and quantify the socioeconomic and environmental benefits of an "Asian energy highway".

54. To better understand options on regional energy connectivity for the whole Asia-Pacific region, the secretariat will work to identify specific ways in which the Pacific island States could benefit from an "Asian energy highway" or alternatively develop an initiative on connectivity that addresses the particular energy challenges in the Pacific.

55. To further develop the road map for the Asian energy highway, the secretariat will strengthen interdivisional collaboration on regional integration across multiple sectors, including transport, ICT and energy.

C. Resolution 69/4
Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015

1. Requirements of the operative paragraphs

56. In paragraph 4 of its resolution 69/4, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary:

(a) To support the organization of the Ministerial Dialogue;

(b) To facilitate the participation of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in the Ministerial Dialogue;

(c) To also facilitate the participation of the private sector, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders in the Ministerial Dialogue;

(d) To report to the Commission at its seventieth session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. Progress made

57. In response to paragraph 4(a) of the resolution, the secretariat provided the Government of Thailand with technical, logistical and financial support to organize, in Bangkok from 26 to 28 August 2013, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015.

58. In response to paragraph 4(b) of the resolution, the secretariat facilitated the participation of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in the Ministerial Dialogue. The participants included representatives of seven least developed

countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal and Timor-Leste), four landlocked developing countries (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Uzbekistan) and four small island developing States (Fiji, Maldives, Micronesia and Vanuatu), including six representatives at head-of-State or ministerial level.

59. In response to paragraph 4(c) of the resolution, the secretariat facilitated the participation of the private sector, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders in the Ministerial Dialogue. In addition to ensuring that 41 participants attended the Ministerial Dialogue, the secretariat collaborated with a group of civil society organizations in setting up the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Consultation on a Just and Transformative Post-2015 Development Framework on 23 and 24 August 2013 to facilitate inputs from the broader stakeholders in the Ministerial Dialogue.

60. The key outcomes of the Ministerial Dialogue included the Chair's Summary[10] and the Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific Region on the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015.[11] The Bangkok Declaration highlighted in particular that the development agenda beyond 2015 should be "holistic, inclusive, equitable, people-centred and universal",[12] and should aim to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development. The Bangkok Declaration also recommended that the development agenda beyond 2015 should "address all forms of inequalities and the factors underpinning them". Additionally, it proposed a strengthened global partnership and enhanced implementation of the agreed-upon development goals. Furthermore, the ministers expressed their desire to see an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process that involves civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders.

61. The outcomes were presented at the third session of the Committee on Environment and Development in October 2013.[13] By welcoming the outcomes, the Committee recognized, among other things, that ESCAP is an appropriate platform for facilitating dialogue among member States on regional implementation of the agenda on sustainable development, and linking the regional perspective to the ongoing global processes.[14]

D. Resolution 69/9
Implementation of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme towards voluntary follow-up to the Rio+20 outcome "The future we want"

1. Requirements of the operative paragraphs

62. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 69/9, the Commission requests the Executive Secretary to support the elaboration of the institutional framework and programmatic activities of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme by:

(a) Providing expert technical support in the preparations for the above stakeholder meeting, including through collaboration with the Economic Commission for Europe and special programmes, in particular the

[10] http://apmd2013.unescap.org/documents/APMD2013_Chair_Summary.pdf.

[11] http://apmd2013.unescap.org/documents/APMD2013_Declaration.pdf.

[12] Operative paragraph 4.

[13] See E/ESCAP/CED(3)/3, para. 17.

[14] See E/ESCAP/70/13, para. 2

United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, as appropriate;

(b) Supporting capacity development, technical expertise and access to policy tools and frameworks;

(c) Encouraging the development and application of policies and tools, such as environmentally sound technologies, for promoting and facilitating, as appropriate, the transfer of, or access to, environmentally sound technologies, on mutually agreed terms and conditions;

(d) Promoting knowledge-sharing networks to exchange experiences and analyses and lessons learned from sustainable development pilot projects highlighting pro-poor pro-environment growth;

(e) Supporting the necessary transfer of know-how and technologies for capacity-building to developing countries in the Asian and Pacific region, on mutually agreed terms and conditions.

63. In paragraph 5 of the resolution, the Commission requests the Executive Secretary to prepare, jointly with interested countries and partners, including the Economic Commission for Europe, as appropriate, a report on the progress in regional implementation of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme to be submitted to the seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, in 2015.

64. Finally, in paragraph 6 of the resolution, the Commission also requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventieth session on the progress in the implementation of the resolution.

2. Progress made

65. In response to paragraph 3(a), the secretariat worked with the Kazakh Ministry of Environment and Water Resources and its Ministry of Foreign Affairs to hold the first International Conference on the Green Bridge Partnership Programme (GBPP) from 30 September to 1 October 2013 in Astana, in partnership with the Economic Commission for Europe.

66. At this Conference, GBPP was successfully launched and the corresponding charter signed by eight countries: Belarus; Georgia; Germany; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Mongolia; Montenegro; and Russian Federation. A ninth country, Latvia, signed the charter on 5 December 2013.

67. The secretariat provided technical assistance and advisory services in the development of proposals for the GBPP project, and on the Green Bridge Charter, which outlines the commitment by signatories towards operationalization of GBPP. Additional support was provided in developing the meeting programme, background documentation, and identification of partners and participants.

68. In response to paragraph 3(b), the secretariat carried out advisory services and capacity development activities, including:

(a) Participating and making a presentation at the sixth Astana Economic Forum: Ensuring Sustainable Economic Growth in G-Global Format, which was held in Astana between 22 and 24 May 2013. The Forum provided the platform for implementing resolution 69/9 and solidifying partnerships among ESCAP, the Government of Kazakhstan and civil society organizations, including the Coalition for Green Economy and Development of G-Global (the Coalition);

(b) Co-organizing, in collaboration with the Coalition, the first national Seminar on Green Growth Policy Tools for Low Carbon Development, which was held on 2 October 2013 in Astana and on 3 October 2013 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

69. In response to paragraph 3(c), the secretariat actively supported seminars, forums and other activities developed by the Government of Kazakhstan and its partners on a number of occasions by presenting ESCAP approaches to green economic growth in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development to key policy and decision makers.

70. In response to paragraph 3(d), the secretariat invited the Government of Kazakhstan to share the outcomes of the Green Bridge Conference and to invite additional members to join GBPP at the third session of the Committee on Environment and Development, which was held in Bangkok from 29 to 31 October 2013.[15] Concurrently, the Government of Kazakhstan — represented by the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Bangkok, the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources, and the Investment Group ACME Co. Ltd LLP (a member of the Board of the Coalition for Green Economy and Development of G-Global) — organized a side event at the Committee session, providing more information on GBPP, research on financial mechanisms and technical studies undertaken to date in support of the full operationalization and successful implementation of GBPP.

71. In August 2013, the Coalition signed a memorandum of agreement with the secretariat regarding ongoing capacity development and implementation of GBPP. The parties to the agreement agreed to promote a paradigm shift towards low carbon green growth in the Asia-Pacific region through research, capacity development and financing.

72. With regard to paragraph 3(d), the secretariat launched, in both English and Russian, the Low Carbon Green Growth (LCGG) e-learning course, which is part of the Online E-learning Facility developed by ESCAP, and which has to date provided training to over 1,200 policymakers. Over 100 participants from Kazakhstan are currently enrolled in the LCGG six-week online e-learning course.

73. The secretariat continues to provide support for capacity-building technologies and knowledge transfer through the online e-learning facility, and through activities as part of the memorandum of agreement with key partners, such as the Coalition for Green Economy and Development of G-Global.

74. As regards paragraph 5, the Coalition have agreed to participate in reporting on GBPP for the seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development. The secretariat will continue to work with partners, including the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia and the Economic Commission for Europe, to provide a progress report on GBPP.

[15] Ibid, para. 22.

IV. Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management

Resolution 67/4
Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management

1. Requirements of the operative paragraphs

75. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to support the process for the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management, including the development of the required modalities and arrangements for its operationalization through:

(a) Enhanced engagement under ESCAP subprogramme 5, Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction, with the more vulnerable countries and subregions in the areas of disaster risk reduction and disaster information management;

(b) Enhanced engagement under the ESCAP subregional offices in the areas of disaster risk reduction and disaster information management;

(c) Cooperation with United Nations entities, in particular the Asia-Pacific Office of the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and with other international, regional and non-governmental entities;

(d) Inclusion of the details of the activities under paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) above in the secretariat's annual reporting to the Commission.

2. Progress made

76. The secretariat has made progress by:

(a) Facilitating the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, jointly with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, to organize a side event on disaster information management on 24 October 2012 during the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Yogyakarta, Indonesia;

(b) Providing technical assistance to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to develop the programme of work of the centre;

(c) Establishing an advisory group, comprising eminent experts from the region, to provide the Executive Secretary with technical advice on implementing the resolution. The advisory group met with key officials of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of the sixty-ninth session of the Commission to outline strategies for implementation of the centre's programme of work;

(d) Organizing two subregional expert group meetings in North and Central Asia in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 26 and 27 February 2014 and South and South-West Asia in New Delhi on 10 and 11 April 2014, and to discuss the centre's programme of work with ESCAP members from vulnerable subregions and countries.

3. Other issues

77. The resolution also requested the Executive Secretary to include in the secretariat's evaluation plan for 2013 an evaluation of the activities under paragraph 4 of the resolution and the need for, and benefit of, establishing the Centre as a subsidiary body of the Commission for the development of disaster information management, and to submit the results of that evaluation to the Commission at its seventieth session.

78. In this regard, the secretariat has included in its evaluation plan for 2013 the above-mentioned evaluation and has formed an evaluation reference group within the secretariat to oversee its implementation in accordance with the resolution and the norms and standards contained in the ESCAP Monitoring and Evaluation System.

79. Furthermore, the secretariat took note of an official request from the Government of the Islamic of Republic of Iran to postpone evaluation of the centre for one year until the end of 2014 to allow the convening of subregional and regional meetings on disaster information management, which are critical for its operationalization. As a consequence, the secretariat has decided to reschedule the evaluation until the end of 2014 with a view to submitting its results to the Commission at its seventy-first session, in 2015.

V. Social development

A. Resolution 67/5
Full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region

1. Requirements of the operative paragraphs

80. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 67/5, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary:

(a) To further emphasize the role of the Commission in supporting members and associate members in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action;[16]

(b) To provide members and associate members, upon request, with technical assistance to strengthen their capacity for effective implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, including its review and appraisal;

(c) To facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices on ageing, including the monitoring and implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

(d) To support members and associate members, upon request, in developing their national capacities for the provision of elderly care services in cooperation with existing training institutions focusing on ageing in the region;

(e) To encourage the participation of all key stakeholders, including civil society organizations and the private sector, in the preparatory process for the second global review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action.

[16] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

2. Progress made

81. In response to resolution 67/5, the secretariat has carried out three key processes to review and appraise implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region, namely: (a) a regional intergovernmental survey; (b) a regional preparatory meeting in November 2011; and (c) the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action, which was held in Bangkok in September 2012.

82. The regional intergovernmental survey on progress and challenges in the implementation of the Madrid Plan was conducted in 2011. The survey outlined progress in the implementation of the Madrid Plan and identified the gaps and challenges confronting the Asia-Pacific region with regard to population ageing. The consolidated survey results informed discussions during the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

83. To support member States' efforts in the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan, ESCAP, in cooperation with the China National Committee on Ageing, organized, in Beijing from 22 to 24 November 2011, the Preparatory Meeting for the Second Regional Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. The preparatory meeting brought together population focal points and experts from Governments, research institutes and civil society organizations from 22 countries and areas, as well as international organizations. Participants shared their experiences in implementing and reviewing the Madrid Plan in their domestic contexts, and discussed how best to address the challenges the region faces as regards the protection and empowerment of older persons, including as regards social protection and health and social care for the elderly. The meeting identified key regional priorities for future action under the three pillars of the Madrid Plan, namely: older persons and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; and ensuring enabling and supportive environments.

84. The Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing was held in Bangkok from 10 to 12 September 2012. The meeting was attended by representatives of 30 ESCAP members and associate members, in addition to non-governmental organizations and representatives of other United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and related organizations. The meeting reviewed the progress made in implementation of the Madrid Plan in the Asia-Pacific region, considered key priorities for the next implementation cycle from 2013 to 2017 and identified key areas for regional cooperation to further strengthen implementation of the Madrid Plan. The meeting adopted the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing,[17] which represented the Asia-Pacific input to the global review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan, which was held in 2013 under the auspices of the Commission for Social Development.[18]

85. In response to resolution 67/5, ESCAP organized, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Capacity-building Workshop to Support National Policy Responses to Issues of Ageing in Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok from 28 February to 1 March 2012. The

[17] See E/ESCAP/69/11, chap. I.

[18] For the report of the Commission, see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 6* (E/2013/26).

workshop introduced concepts and techniques to assess national progress in relation to the commitments and recommendations of the Madrid Plan, including data collection, stakeholder coordination, planning, regional networking, information sharing, and mainstreaming of the Madrid Plan commitments into national development plans.

86. In response to paragraph 3(d), ESCAP organized the Asia-Pacific Capacity-building Workshop on Elderly Care Services and Policy Forum on Ageing, in cooperation with Zhongshan College and the China Ageing Development Foundation, in Nanjing, China, from 13 to 16 November 2012. The workshop and forum brought together experts on population ageing and elderly care services, from Governments, research institutes and civil society organizations as well as the relevant international organizations. The workshop enhanced national capacity for the provision of elderly care services through the sharing of experiences; the policy forum segment identified priority areas for action in ensuring quality health and long-term care services for older persons in the Asia-Pacific region.

87. In co-operation with the National Health and Family Planning Commission of China, ESCAP organized an Asia-Pacific Regional Expert Meeting on Long-Term Care for Older Persons in Shanghai, China, on 18 and 19 December 2013. The meeting resulted in recommendations on the most appropriate modalities for providing long-term care for older persons in the region, which will serve as an input for a regional forum to be held in mid-2014. It also identified new areas for research to strengthen existing knowledge on the modalities for providing long-term care in the region.

B. Resolution 67/6
Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities at ESCAP

1. Requirements of the operative paragraphs

88. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 67/6, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to continue and strengthen, as appropriate, efforts to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities at ESCAP, which may encompass the following:

(a) To develop and implement further measures, in consultation with United Nations Headquarters, to enhance the accessibility of the secretariat's physical environment, information and communications systems, and other facilities and services, and support the development of assistive technologies for persons with disabilities, taking into account, as appropriate, the principles and relevant articles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

(b) To work with United Nations Headquarters to establish an inter-agency advisory group comprising concerned United Nations entities, and conduct an open dialogue with key stakeholders, including organizations of persons with disabilities from Asia and the Pacific, to review the accessibility of facilities and services in the United Nations complex in Bangkok and to make recommendations for their further improvement to the Executive Secretary;

(c) To establish a mechanism within the secretariat to promote the full inclusion and rights of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others, bearing in mind United Nations system-wide policies and the principles and relevant articles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

(d) To integrate the perspective of persons with disabilities into the secretariat's work, including its activities relating to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific;

(e) To promote greater knowledge and awareness among secretariat staff of the rights of persons with disabilities, including through exploring, with United Nations Headquarters, the provision of disability-sensitive training for staff at large;

(f) To continue the progressive implementation, in consultation with United Nations Headquarters, of standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services of the United Nations.

2. Progress made

89. In response to paragraphs 2(a), (b), (c) and (f), the secretariat has undertaken incremental measures to enhance the accessibility of facilities and services at ESCAP. In 2011, it conducted an accessibility audit of the secretariat's facilities along with representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities. Integrating the results of the audit, the secretariat formulated a plan to improve accessibility at ESCAP in line with the United Nations Headquarters' guidelines. Since then, the secretariat has been progressively implementing the plan. The achievements made thus far include the replacement of carpets at the United Nations Conference Centre to facilitate greater mobility of wheelchair users and the upgrading of elevator controls to improve usability for wheelchair or visually impaired users. Furthermore, the secretariat has made every effort to provide sign language and/or Finger Braille interpretation services at those meetings requiring such resources. The secretariat also ensured that the Social Development Division website was in compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines of the World Wide Web Consortium Web Accessibility Initiative.

90. In 2013, the secretariat held a consultation with the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea regarding implementation of resolution 67/6. The consultation resulted in a decision by the Government of the Republic of Korea, through the ministry, to support the establishment of an accessibility centre in 2014 to enhance the accessibility of facilities and services at ESCAP for persons with disabilities. This came at a time when the Republic of Korea had just donated assistive devices to United Nations Headquarters to support the establishment of its own accessibility centre, following an initiative launched by the Secretary-General on 4 December 2013. As part of preparations for the establishment of such a centre at ESCAP, the ministry donated several motorized and manual wheelchairs and ICT assistive devices to the secretariat in October 2013.

91. To promote the inclusion and rights of persons with disabilities to engage in the work of the secretariat, ESCAP has employed and contracted several persons with disabilities.

92. In response to paragraph 2(d), the secretariat facilitated the adoption of the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, which was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 29 October to 2 November 2012. The Incheon

Strategy provides the region and the world with the first set of 10 regionally agreed disability-inclusive development goals.[19]

93. To promote disability inclusion in the implementation of Millennium Development Goal 1 as well as Goal 1 of the Incheon Strategy ("Reduce poverty and enhance work and employment prospects"), the secretariat launched the ESCAP-Sasakawa Award for Disability-Inclusive Business in Asia and the Pacific, which is awarded to private companies and entrepreneurs for their outstanding contributions to disability inclusion in their business operations. The first award ceremony was held in Bangkok on 3 December 2013.

94. Millennium Development Goal 3 promotes gender equality and empowering women, while Goal 6 of the Incheon Strategy seeks to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment. As part of preparations for the Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing +20 Review, which is to be held in November 2014, the secretariat mainstreamed disability concerns into the pre-conference survey of ESCAP member States.

95. In response to paragraph 2(e), the secretariat, in collaboration with experts with disabilities, conducted a disability equality training for the staff of the Social Development Division of ESCAP in March 2014. The objective of the training was to enhance awareness of disability-rights issues. Consideration is being given to the possibility of extending the training to all ESCAP staff.

C. Resolution 69/13
Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific

1. Requirements of the operative paragraphs

96. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 69/13, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy;

(b) To submit a road map for the implementation of the Incheon Strategy to the Commission at its seventieth session for endorsement;

(c) To submit the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, to the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, to be convened by the General Assembly on 23 September 2013,[20] through the President of the General Assembly.

[19] See E/ESCAP/69/12.

[20] See General Assembly resolution 66/124.

2. Progress made

97. In response to paragraph 3(a), the highest priority is being accorded to supporting Governments in their implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy. At the same time, as a reflection of national ownership and commitment, ESCAP member States have themselves initiated a wide range of activities at the national level to implement the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy. As at 10 January 2014, the Incheon Strategy had been translated into Chinese, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Mongolian, Russian and Vietnamese as part of efforts to disseminate it widely to ensure its full and effective implementation.

98. Furthermore, national launches of the Incheon Strategy and the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, have been held. In Cambodia, the launch was held on 29 May 2013 and was presided over by the prime minister and attended by Cabinet ministers and provincial officials. In Malaysia, the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development held the Conference on the Incheon Strategy 2012-2022: A New Decade for Persons with Disabilities in Malaysia, in Kuala Lumpur on 1 and 2 July 2013. The Conference adopted an outcome document pledging nationwide commitment to implementation of the Incheon Strategy.

99. The secretariat provided technical assistance to the Government of Cambodia in its drafting of the National Strategic Disability Plan 2014-2018 thereby aligning it with the principles and concepts of the Incheon Strategy.

100. As disability statistics constitute an essential element of the Incheon Strategy, the secretariat will publish a guidebook on the 62 Incheon Strategy Indicators to enhance member States' statistical capacity to collect data. As part of preparations, the secretariat organized the Expert Group Meeting on Effective Data Generation for the Incheon Strategy Indicators in Bangkok on 6 and 7 November 2013. The meeting identified progress, gaps and capacity development needs with regard to the collection of reliable and comparable data for the Incheon Strategy indicators, and reviewed the first draft of the guidebook.

101. To promote disability inclusion in disaster-risk reduction planning and the implementation of Goal 7 of the Incheon Strategy on the same subject, the secretariat, in collaboration with Rehabilitation International and the Nippon Foundation, is organizing the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction: Changing Mindsets through Knowledge in Sendai, Japan, on 22 and 23 April 2014. The outcome document of the meeting is likely to call for an explicit reference to disability issues in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[21] which is expected to be updated in 2015.

102. In response to paragraphs 3(a) and (b), the secretariat will submit a road map for the implementation of the Incheon Strategy to the Commission at its seventieth session for endorsement.[22] As part of the preparatory process for the road map, the secretariat organized the Consultative Meeting of Champions and Promoters of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, in Bangkok on 9 and 10 October 2013 to seek views on a preliminary draft of the road map.

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[21] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

[22] See E/ESCAP/70/17.

103. Furthermore, the secretariat organized the first session of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, in Incheon, Republic of Korea, on 25 and 26 February 2014, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea. At its first session, the Working Group adopted its rules of procedure and provided its views on the content of the draft road map for onward submission to the Commission at its seventieth session.

104. In response to paragraph 3(c), the secretariat submitted the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific to the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, which was convened by the General Assembly on 23 September 2013, through the President of the General Assembly.

105. Moreover, the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on a Disability-inclusive Development Agenda towards 2015 and Beyond was convened and hosted by the Government of Thailand in cooperation with ESCAP, and with support from the Government of Australia (through the Australian Agency for International Development), the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability and the World Bank in Bangkok on 15 and 16 May 2013. The consultation provided a regional input to the aforementioned General Assembly high-level meeting, and conveyed the high priority accorded by the Asia-Pacific region to disability inclusion in the development agenda beyond 2015. The outcome of the consultation, namely the "Asia-Pacific Input to the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and Other Internationally Agreed Development Goals for Persons with Disabilities", was submitted to the aforementioned General Assembly high-level meeting.

VI. Subregional activities for development

A. Resolution 68/1
Reaffirming the special case and the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States with a focus on the Pacific

1. Requirements of the operative paragraphs

106. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 68/1, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue to support capacity development and capacity supplementation for Pacific small island developing States to pursue sustainable development and to increase their resilience, including in response to the challenges of climate change;

(b) To improve access to finance so that Pacific small island developing States can transform their economies towards sustainable development and climate resilience;

(c) To promote and support voluntary technology transfer as a contribution to the sustainable development of Pacific small island developing States.

107. In paragraph 4 of the resolution, the Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to report on the implementation of the resolution to the Commission at its seventieth session.

2. Progress made

108. In response to paragraph 3(a), the secretariat worked with regional partners through the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the Pacific (UNDAF Pacific) to mobilise capacity-development support for Pacific small island developing States in favour of green economy approaches and the development and implementation of national sustainable development strategies (as promoted through the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States).[23] The secretariat supported the mainstreaming of green economy approaches, lessons and analysis into national and subregional policy dialogue, including through the Pacific Green Growth Leadership Forum and intergovernmental processes such as the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting, the Melanesian Spearhead Group, the Pacific Islands Development Forum and annual meetings between Pacific island leaders and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. During 2012 and 2013, the secretariat worked with SDWG and UNDAF Pacific to prepare regional briefs for Pacific member States for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and for the 2013 Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and developed the Pacific National Sustainable Development Strategy Regional Support Partnership. The secretariat provided advice and organisational support for the establishment of the Pacific Islands Development Forum, and the Pacific Green Growth Leadership Coalition in 2013. The secretariat published and launched "Green Economy in a Blue World: Pacific Perspectives 2012",[24] which offered Pacific-specific analyses on green economic policies in pursuit of sustainable development in the region. The secretariat convened the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 2014 Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which was held in Nadi, Fiji, from 10 to 12 July 2013; this included the facilitation of preparatory meetings, supported the preparation of national assessment reports and prepared a regional synthesis report (based on national assessment reports). The secretariat provided advice and dedicated support to the Pacific small island developing States participants at the Interregional Preparatory Meeting for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which was held in Barbados from 26 to 28 August 2013. In 2013, the secretariat launched a Climate Change and Migration project (funded by the European Union and co-implemented with the International Labour Organization and UNDP) aimed at building the capacity of vulnerable communities and Governments in Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru to deal with relocation and migration as a result of climate change.

109. In response to paragraph 3(b), the secretariat liaised with the ministries of finance and planning and international financial institutions in the Pacific (primarily, ADB, the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance

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[23] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[24] ST/ESCAP/2641.

Centre and the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF)) to better align financing and fiscal policies with approaches to the green economy and structural transformation, through policy analysis and advocacy and by working through existing subregional processes.

110. In response to paragraph 3(c), the secretariat worked with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, ADB and PRIF to support energy sector programmes through the provision of access to energy data and information concerning donor activities, including energy infrastructure, using the Pacific Regional Data Repository for SE4All (Sustainable Energy for All).

B. Resolution 69/17
Sustainable management, conservation and use of ocean resources for the development of Asia-Pacific small island developing States

1. Requirements of the operative paragraphs

111. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 69/17, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary:

(a) To support capacity development in Asia-Pacific small island developing States for the sustainable management of oceans and seas in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as part of their efforts to eradicate poverty and ensure food security in the context of sustainable development;

(b) To undertake analysis in order to develop the evidence base for determining how the sustainable use of oceans and seas and their resources can contribute to poverty eradication and sustained economic growth in Asia-Pacific small island developing States;

(c) To submit a report detailing the manner in which the secretariat can support member States in the sustainable management of oceans and seas for sustainable development and poverty eradication to the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries at the seventieth session of the Commission.

112. In paragraph 3 of the resolution, the Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-first session on the progress in the implementation of the resolution.

2. Progress made

113. In response to paragraph 2(a), the secretariat continues to work with relevant United Nations agencies and regional and subregional organizations to support capacity development in Asia-Pacific small island developing States for the sustainable management of oceans and seas. The secretariat works through the CROP Marine Sector Working Group and SDWG, with particular attention being paid to the objectives of the Pacific Oceanscape Initiative. The secretariat has also taken a lead analytical and advocacy role in the promotion of the "Green economy in a blue world" approach, which emphasizes the importance of ocean resources and ecosystems as part of policies based on the idea of the green economy for small island developing States so that they might build resilience to the likely impacts of climate change. Through its subregional office for the Pacific, the secretariat has also been invited to join UN-Oceans to represent the interests of Asia-Pacific small island developing States as regards issues concerning oceans.

114. In response to paragraph 2(b), the secretariat has prepared a report, with external inputs and in collaboration with members of the CROP Marine Sector Working Group, to contribute to the evidence base on how the sustainable use of oceans and seas (and their resources) can better contribute to poverty eradication and sustained economic growth in Asia-Pacific small island developing States. In addition, the secretariat is planning on convening an expert group meeting to verify the findings of the report, and to identify opportunities to better integrate ocean management into national sustainable development planning and capacity development programmes of Pacific small island developing States (as called for in paragraph 2(a) of the resolution).

115. In response to paragraph 2(c), the secretariat will present the analysis undertaken under paragraph (b) above in a report,[25] which will detail the manner in which the secretariat can support member States in the sustainable management of oceans and seas for sustainable development and poverty eradication, to the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries at the seventieth session of the Commission.

116. In response to paragraph 3, the secretariat will prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution for the consideration of the Commission at its seventy-first session.

VII. Management issues

Resolution 67/14
Cooperation between the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and other United Nations and regional and subregional organizations serving Asia and the Pacific

1. Requirements of the operative paragraphs

117. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 67/14, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assess the manner in which the secretariat carries out its mandate and coordinates its work with regional and subregional organizations operating in Asia and the Pacific, and describe the functioning, decision-making and results of the regional coordination mechanism, including how the secretariat leverages synergies and other efficiencies that could serve as a model for coordination;

(b) Consult with member States, including with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, and present the results to the Commission as part of the biennial reporting on the secretariat's evaluation activities, beginning with the sixty-eighth session of the Commission and continuing in future biennial reports.

2. Progress made

118. In response to paragraph 3(a), ESCAP continued to work closely with other United Nations and regional and subregional organizations serving the region in the pursuit of its mandate to build regional consensus on shared

[25] "Sustainable management of oceans and seas for sustainable development and poverty eradication in Pacific small island developing States" (E/ESCAP/70/2).

priorities and common solutions for common problems, and to play the role of a regional hub for sharing development knowledge and good practice across the region. In this context, the secretariat works with a range of regional and subregional partners under formal cooperation agreements, facilitates the United Nations working together as one at the regional level, and draws on support of United Nations and regional organizations in the implementation of its capacity development work.

119. During 2012 and 2013, ESCAP continued to work, under existing agreements, with: ADB; Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC); Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS); Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO); and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). During the same period, ESCAP signed new, or renewed, cooperation agreements with: Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC); Eurasian Development Bank (EDB); Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI); and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Furthermore, ESCAP signed a trilateral agreement in 2013 with the Economic Commission for Europe and the Secretariat of the Integration Committee of the Eurasian Economic Community (EURASEC).

120. The Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM), convened and serviced by ESCAP, works towards improved coordination and coherence across the United Nations system in the region. During the biennium, the RCM held 16 meetings, including an informal meeting on the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (August 2012), its 18th session (December 2012), a working session chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General to coincide with the sixty-ninth session of the Commission, and a meeting on the ASEAN-United Nations Comprehensive Partnership (June 2013).

121. Other highlights of the work of the RCM, including through its Thematic Working Groups, in 2012-2013 included: (a) publication of the ESCAP/ADB/UNDP Millennium Developments Goals report 2012/2013;[6] (b) promoting the Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign; (c) launch of and promoting the Zero Hunger Challenge; (d) supporting the development of the ASEAN-UN Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management; (e) development of an interagency strategy for improvement of gender statistics; (f) publication of the inter-agency *Green Growth, Resources and Resilience: Environmental Sustainability in Asia and the Pacific*[26] for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; (g) publication of the *Situation Report on International Migration in South and South-West Asia*[27] in 2012; (h) publication of a joint-agency report, *Towards a Green Economy for Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction: An Asia-Pacific Perspective*;[28] and (i) regional commemoration of International Women's Day (in both 2012 and 2013).

122. In resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, the General Assembly calls upon the United Nations at the global, regional and country levels to increase coordination and synergies, particularly in assisting developing countries in promoting inclusive and sustainable development. In this context, the RCM and the United Nations Development Group Asia-Pacific initiated joint work in 2013 in providing perspectives from the region

[26] ST/ESCAP/2600.

[27] ST/ESCAP/2622.

[28] Available from: http://issuu.com/mayanitamojado/docs/asia-pacific_perspective.

on the means of implementation and global partnerships for the development agenda beyond 2015 that builds on the Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific region on the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015[11] and the ESCAP/ADB/UNDP Millennium Development Goals report 2012/2013. As part of this initiative, an expert panel discussion on "Implementing the Global Development Agenda: Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Partnerships and Means" took place as a side event at the sixth session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals in New York in December 2013.

123. In 2013, the RCM provided key inputs into the process to review, in particular, the economic and sociocultural pillars of the ASEAN-United Nations Comprehensive Partnership,[29] for which ESCAP plays a coordinating role at the regional level. In this context, the Executive Secretary participated in the ASEAN-United Nations Summit that was held on 11 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. At this summit, it was agreed to proceed with developing a strategic road map for implementing the partnership in 2014 and 2015.

124. In support of the ASEAN-United Nations Comprehensive Partnership, during 2013 the RCM provided inputs, in particular on the economic and sociocultural pillars, to reviews of the partnership framework and priorities for future cooperation.

125. ESCAP has in-depth, formal working relations with several key United Nations partners, such as those with: (a) UNDP, which are formalized in two agreements, namely one in conjunction with ADB on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and the other with all regional commissions; (b) ILO, through an agreement that is in the process of being renewed; and (c) FAO, through an agreement with all regional commissions.

126. United Nations and regional organizations that contributed to the funding of capacity development work at ESCAP in 2012 and 2013 included: (a) UNDP, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Children's Fund, UN-Women and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; (b) FAO and the United Nations Office for Project Services as administrators of global trust funds; and (c) ADB.[30]

127. The response to paragraph 3(b) is contained in the report on evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2012-2013.[31]

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[29] See www.asean.org/archive/documents/19th%20summit/UN-JD.pdf.

[30] See E/ESCAP/69/17 and E/ESCAP/70/22 for details.

[31] E/ESCAP/68/15.